

or more layers is capable of blocking oxygen atom migration; and

[an] a structure encircling the one or more layers.

94. (Amended) An integrated circuit comprising:

a first device;

a second device;

a contact coupling the first device to the second device; and

[an] a barrier structure of silicon nitride encircling the contact.

97. (Amended) An integrated circuit comprising:

a first device;

a second device;

one or more layers coupling the first device to the second device, at least one of the one or more layers including platinum-iridium; and

[an] a structure encircling the one or more layers.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on June 27, 2002, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 19, 22, 94, and 97 are amended; as a result, claims 19-36 and 94-102 are now pending in this application. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. The amendments are made to clarify the claims and are not intended to limit the scope of equivalents to which any claim element may be entitled. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Claims 19, 22, 94, and 97 are amended to correct typographical errors and are not amended with respect to prior art.